

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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BIG FOUR RESUME AUSTRIAN TREATY TALKS IN NEW YORK. The State Department announced on September 19th that Russian agreement had been obtained to resume Austrian treaty negotiations in New York on September 22nd. The negotiations are conducted by the deputies of the "Big Four" Foreign Ministers while the Ministers themselves hold their New York meeting. The negotiators are the same as those involved in the most recent attempt to complete the treaty. That effort ended in London September 1st after two months of negotiations.

The results of the negotiations to date may be summarized as follows: when the deputies met in London on July 1st, 18 articles still remained on which no agreement had been reached by the Foreign Ministers either in Paris, in Moscow, or on two separate occasions in London. Another 3 articles were added, thus bringing to 21 the total of articles on which the deadlock still remained to be broken. During their two months of negotiations, the deputies in London agreed on 8 of these and dropped 4 others, thus leaving 9 still unsettled.

Agreement was reached on the following articles: Article 2 (guarantee of Austrian independence, Article 5 (Austria's frontiers), Article 7 bis (rights of the Slovene and Croatian minorities in Austria), Article 34 (exemption from payment of reparations), Article 36 (restitutions by Austria), Article 38 (Austrian property in Germany and dropping of Austrian claims against Germany), Article 44 (property rights and interests of minority groups in Austria), Article 45 (Austrian assets in Allied and associated countries).

The following articles were dropped: Article 41 (German claims against Austria), Article 43 (application of Austrian law to property rights and interests of the United Nations in Austria), Article 49 bis (treaties between Austria and Germany), Article 51 (patents).

The following articles remained unsettled: Article 16 (displaced persons and refugees in Austria), Article 26 (disposal of Allied and German war material), Article 27 (prevention of German rearmament), Article 32 Allied war graves and war monuments in Austria - a new Russian proposal which cropped up only a few weeks ago), Article 35 (German assets in Austria), Article 35 a (rolling stock equipment in Austria - a proposal of the Western powers), Article 42 (property of the United Nations in Austria), Article 48 (debts), Article 48 bis (monetary loans, supplies and services for the civilian population since May 1945).

The following are the major differences that separate the Western powers from the Soviet Union on the individual articles: Article 16 - on the categories of individuals who should receive no assistance; Articles 26 and 27 - there is a divergence of view on only one point in Article 26 and this refers to Article 27, by means of which the Soviet Union wishes to obligate Austria to exclude persons who are not Austrian citizens from military or civilian aviation, or from experiments and projects in the production or maintenance of war material.

In Article 35, agreement was reached on the method of payment of the lump sum of 150 million dollars within six years, the form of promissory notes, the subordination of properties being transferred to the Soviet Union to Austrian law, prohibition to sell these properties without Russian consent, the right of the Soviet Union to export the net profits or net rental proceeds from these properties in the form of oil or freely-convertible currency, the mutual Austro-Russian waiver of claims and charges resulting from the reciprocal transfer of enterprises, as well as on the relinquishment on the part of the Western powers of war booty to Austria. However, there is still a deadlock on the following points of Article 35: the question of industrial and transportation equipment, including the 500 locomotives which belonged to Austria before the occupation and which the Western delegates claim were included by the Foreign Ministers during their exchange of views in Paris, but which the Russian delegate claims were not included since, according to him, the Paris talks covered only

immovable equipment and not rolling stock. Another disputed point is the question of whether, in the event of disputes, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the third member of the arbitration commission as chairman, or whether the two arbitrators themselves shall name the chairman. Another point of disagreement is the question of who shall get the buildings erected by the Soviet Union during its exploitation of the oil fields which are scheduled to revert back to Austria. Still another disputed point is the question as to whether the performance of the provisions of this agreement shall be regarded as complete and full payment of all Austrian debts arising out of the Potsdam Agreement. To these must be added the 5 lists to Article 35, drawn up by the experts, in which the former German assets to be turned over to the Soviet Union are enumerated. List 1 pertaining to the oil companies, as well as the footnote regarding oil field installations, was accepted. The views are further apart on List 2, pertaining to oil prospecting rights: on the one hand, with respect to the leasing agreements, which the Western powers believe should terminate after 30 or 33 years, and on the other, with regard to the division of prospecting rights between the Soviet Union and Austria. List 3, dealing with oil refineries, was not accepted because the Western powers believe that the refineries demanded by the Soviet Union could produce more than the 420,000 tons of oil per year agreed upon in Paris. Similar reasons led to the non-acceptance of List 4, pertaining to oil selling companies. In List 5, which deals with the Danube Shipping Company, two paragraphs were accepted and three rejected. On this question, the Western powers are particularly opposed to the proposal that Russia be granted permanent leasing rights, rights which the Danube Shipping Company itself did not even have.

Nor was any agreement reached on Article 42 which relates to the property of the United Nations in Austria. The Western delegates want Austria to restitute or to pay compensation for Allied property retroactively from the day war was declared or from the day the occupation began, whereas the Russians insist that such compensation be made retroactive to the date on which the country of the national concerned entered the war. No accord was reached on Article 48, primarily because the Soviet Union holds the view that Austria cannot be obligated to pay for debts which were contracted before the occupation. Likewise unsettled is Article 48 bis because the Western powers and the Soviet Union do not see eye to eye on the question as to whether Austria should or should not be made to pay for the supplies given to the Austrian civilian population by the Allies since the end of the war. The Western powers have waived payment of these deliveries.

Upon his return to Vienna from London, Austrian Foreign Minister Gruber stated in a public address that the problem of the State Treaty has been divorced from the realm of principle and turned into an arithmetic problem in economics. In addition to this economic aspect, Dr. Gruber said, consideration should be given to the fact that the decisions reached in Paris must not be nullified by the closing report of the Deputy Foreign Ministers. These are questions of international confidence which must be reestablished and not allowed to be placed in doubt, if the Austrian State Treaty is to be the transition to a peaceful future.

AUSTRIAN FINANCE MINISTER IN WASHINGTON. The Austrian Minister of Finance, Dr. Georg Zimmermann, and the President of the Austrian National Bank, Dr. Hans Rizzi, have visited Washington to participate in the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Boards of Governors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund, held at the Shoreham Hotel from September 13th onward.

Dr. Zimmermann who is Governor of the International Bank and Dr. Rizzi as Governor of the International Monetary Fund were accompanied by Dr. Assen Hartenau, Chief of the Credit Department of the Finance Ministry, and Dr. Franz Stoeger-Marenbach, Director of the Austrian National Bank, as their Deputy Governors, and Dr. Gustav Waermter, Research Director of the Austrian National Bank, as advisor.

During their stay in Washington the Austrian delegation had occasion to discuss various problems of financial and monetary character with the other members of the Bank and the Fund, and also with representatives of the United States.

A reception in honor of the Austrian Minister of Finance and the other Austrian delegates was given by the Austrian Minister and Mme. Kleinwaechter on Monday, September 19th, at their residence in Washington. Dr. Zimmermann and his party left Washington on September 22nd in order to resume their duties in Vienna.

AUSTRIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN GETS UNDER WAY. In the early days of September, Austria's political parties began their campaign for the forthcoming general elections to be held on October 9th. On that day the country's voters will not only elect a new Parliament (Nationalrat), but also the State Assemblies (Landtage) for the Republic's nine federal provinces. According to the latest dispatches, 6 political parties have registered with the Supreme Election Commission in Vienna for the general parliamentary elections, although the number of parties participating in the provincial elections is somewhat larger. All parties have formulated their election platforms which are now being widely publicized in meetings, posters and the press. To date, the campaign which is aimed at almost 4,400,000 voters has led to no serious incidents and is gaining momentum in an orderly manner.

The country's largest party today, the Oesterreichische Volkspartei, which in the last elections in November 1945 won 85 of the 165 parliamentary seats and, consequently, an absolute majority, is campaigning on a platform whose major planks are the final establishment of Austrian sovereignty and completion of the State Treaty, the removal of occupation troops and a smoothly operating free economic system based on private enterprise. Its platform calls for greater economy in government expenditures, a fair tax policy and administrative reforms to eliminate superfluous agencies and prevent bureaucratization of public life. In the field of education, the party opposes state monopoly of schools and favors strong parental influence in educational matters. Its platform denounces totalitarianism and dictatorship and demands the reestablishment of equality for all segments of the population. In addition, the People's Party favors the promotion of a housing program, a fair compromise between management and labor and unimpeded freedom of labor. The party's election campaign is under the direction of its chairman Dr. Leopold Figl, the country's present Chancellor, who is a candidate in Lower Austria. Other leading parliamentary candidates of the People's Party are Dr. Karl Gruber (Tyrol), the present Foreign Minister; Dr. Felix Hurdles (Vienna), the Minister of Education; Ferdinand Graf (Carinthia), Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of the Interior; Leopold Kunschak (Vienna), President of Parliament; Dr. Heinrich Gleissner, Governor of Upper Austria and Dr. Ernst Kolb (Vorarlberg), Minister of Commerce.

The Sozialistische Partei Oesterreichs, which won 76 parliamentary seats in the last elections and is now participating in the coalition government in such posts as that of the Vice-Chancellor and several Ministers, also demands an end to the occupation, completion of the State Treaty and Austria's admission to the Council of Europe and the United Nations. The party's economic platform calls for planned management of the country's economy and rational organization of nationalized industries. The party also favors a limited land reform, full employment, old-age pensions for all workers and expanded social security benefits. In addition, it stands for the retention of rent controls and a large-scale housing program. Its platform sharply opposes all restrictions on political freedom and takes a strong stand for the protection of human and civic rights. The party's election campaign is in the hands of its chairman Vice-Chancellor Dr. Adolf Schaerf, who is also the leading candidate in Vienna's 7th election district. Other important Socialist candidates are Oskar Helmer (Lower Austria), the present Minister of the Interior; Dr. Theodor Koerner, the present Mayor of Vienna; Karl Seitz, a former Mayor; Dr. Alfred Migsch (Styria), the Minister of Electrification; Ferdinand Wedenig, Governor of Carinthia and Johann Boehm (Burgenland), the President of the Austrian Federation of Labor.

The Kommunistische Partei Oesterreichs, which was able to gain only 4 seats in the last elections, is campaigning on a joint election ticket with a radical left-wing splinter group of the socalled "Progressive Socialists". The Communist Party is the only Austrian party which is openly attacking the Marshall Plan and demanding that Austria align its economy with that of the Soviet Union. Its platform calls for nationalization of all major industrial enterprises and banks, a land reform and the elimination of Western influence in the country. The party's principal candidates are Johann Koplenig, its chairman; Ernst Fischer, Communist Member of Parliament and Erwin Scharf, who was recently expelled from the Socialist Party.

In addition to these three parties, which had already campaigned in the last elections, there are three other political groups now participating in the election. The Verband der Unabhaengigen, which

is under the direction of the Salzburg journalist Dr. Herbert Kraus, is opposed to present government policy. Its election platform states that the party stands for democracy and favors the completion of the Austrian State Treaty. One of its major planks calls for the rehabilitation of all former Nazis and another demands a free economy.

The Demokratische Union is under the leadership of Dr. Josef Dobretsberger, a Graz University professor. Its platform is designed to attract votes from liberal circles. It favors a cautious economic policy, streamlining of the government apparatus and completion of the State Treaty.

The last party listed is the Ergokratische Partei which stands for a barter economy and demands the nationalization of all banks.

To eliminate any doubt as to the validity of the Austrian elections, the Austrian Government appealed to the Allied Control Council in Vienna on August 30th for a decision on the admission and free electioneering of new parties. In its session of September 9th, the Executive Committee of the Allied Council for Austria decided that the October 9th elections could be held in accordance with the 1949 Austrian Election Statute, as voted by the Austrian Parliament and approved by the Council on June 24th. It was further decided that parties fulfilling the requirements of the Election Statute could participate in the elections unhindered.

Complete and detailed results of the October 9th elections will be published in the next issue of the Austrian Information bulletin.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGES PROTESTANT CHURCH CONSTITUTION. At the end of August, the Austrian Government acknowledged the new "Constitution of the Protestant Church of Austria, Lutheran and Calvinist denominations" resolved by the Protestant General Synod on January 26, 1949. This new constitution will replace the outdated Church Constitution of the year 1891. It will give the 131 congregations of the Lutheran Church and the 6 congregations of the Reformed Church in Austria - which together have a total of some 400,000 worshippers - a common new administrative system. The new constitution upholds the principle of Church autonomy in ecclesiastical matters. Pursuant to the constitution, this autonomy is based on the congregations themselves, and all Church dignitaries are elected by the congregations, the parishes, the provincial courts (superintendencies) and the general congregation (National Church). The General Synod is the legislative body. The direction of Church matters is in the hands of the Church Council which is appointed by the General Synod. The titular head of the Council will no longer be a jurisdictional president, but the Bishop, namely the Reformed National Superintendent. The new Church Constitution represents only an internal Church codification; the legal relationship between Church and State, however, still awaits federal legislative action.

AUSTRIAN FEDERATION OF LABOR PROTESTS ILLEGAL RUSSIAN PROPERTY

SEIZURES. In its meeting of September 1st the Executive Committee of the Austrian Federation of Labor discussed the question of the removal and sale of Austrian raw materials, semi-finished products and machines from the Soviet-managed industrial enterprises in Austria which are scheduled to revert back to Austrian ownership after the completion of the Austrian State Treaty. The Federation has learned that the workers in the enterprises concerned are extremely disturbed by these measures because it is feared that, after their return to Austrian ownership, they will no longer be in condition to continue production and that thousands of workers will be threatened with unemployment. The Executive Committee of the Federation therefore directed an urgent appeal to the Russian occupation authorities to return these enterprises to Austria with their full and undiminished productive capacity, and it requested the Austrian Government to do its utmost to protect Austrian economy from the threatening catastrophe.

At the same meeting a motion by Communist Vice-President Fiala, proposing that negotiations for a general 10% wage increase be started, was rejected by a large majority. Johann Boehm, the President of the Federation of Labor, pointed out that the present time was ill-suited for wage demands and that such demands could not be justified on the basis of Austria's present-day economic situation. He accused the Communists of having raised the issue at this time only in order to provoke unrest before the elections of October 9th. The position of labor, the President concluded, could not be improved by unilateral wage increases, which would immediately bring on higher prices, but by an increase in production and a resulting drop in prices.

CHANCELLOR FIGL FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. Dr. Leopold Figl, Federal Chancellor of Austria, touched on the relations between Austria and Yugoslavia in the course of a speech he delivered in Koetschach, Carinthia, on September 8th. He stated that the decision of the Big Four Foreign Ministers in Paris regarding the inviolability of Austria's frontier with Yugoslavia should not be considered as an Austrian victory or a Yugoslav defeat, but simply as a triumph of reason and justice. Despite all past hostility on the part of Yugoslavia, the Chancellor said that Austria entertained no animosity toward that country and would welcome normal and closer relations with it.

ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER DE GASPERI VISITS AUSTRIA. Italy's Prime Minister Alcide de Gasperi arrived in Austria on August 30th for a short visit, after crossing the border at Hochfinstermuenz, near Landeck in the Tyrol. He motored to Kitzbuehl where he spent a few days of rest. He also visited the Alpine mountain highway on the Grossglockner before returning to Italy. The Italian Prime Minister's visit to Austria was of a private and unofficial nature. Several members of the Italian Government had also spent their vacation in various Austrian tourist centers during the course of the summer.

EX-MAYOR OF VIENNA KARL SEITZ CELEBRATES 80TH BIRTHDAY. On September 4th, Karl Seitz, former Mayor of Vienna, celebrated his 80th birthday. In honor of the occasion, the venerable Viennese personality was received at Town Hall by the present Mayor, Theodor Koerner, after a torch-light procession in which tens of thousands Viennese participated. For decades, Karl Seitz has been one of the leading Socialist figures in Austria and since 1901, when he was first elected to the Austrian Parliament, he has played an active and eminent role in Austrian politics. After the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in March 1919, Karl Seitz became the first Chief Executive of the young Austrian Republic in his capacity as President of the "Nationalrat" (Parliament). He held this post until the elections in 1920. In 1923, he was elected Mayor of Vienna, a position which he occupied until February 1934. Under his direction, Vienna's municipal policy led the way to new social innovations, especially in the field of municipal housing. At that time, the modern, hygienic and inexpensive apartment houses that were put up for tens of thousands Viennese workers were notable forerunners of municipal housing projects throughout the world. On February 13, 1934, following the unsuccessful revolt of the Austrian Social Democratic Labor Movement against the regime of Chancellor Engelbert Dollfus, Karl Seitz was removed from office and placed under temporary arrest. After the German occupation of Austria, he was left unmolested for a number of years, but in 1944, at the age of 75, he was arrested by the German Gestapo and brought to Berlin, from where he was later transferred to the concentration camp of Ravensbrueck. It was only in June 1945 that he was able to make his way back to Vienna. In the fall of that year, Karl Seitz was re-elected to the Austrian Parliament on the Socialist ticket.

AUSTRIAN DRAWING RIGHTS UNDER THE NEW O.E.E.C. PLAN. On September 7th, the 16 Marshall Plan nations signed the new Intra-European payments and compensation agreement for the next ECA fiscal year. According to the terms of this agreement, Austria's drawing credits have been fixed at 85.5 million dollars. Of this total, Austrian drawing rights against Western Germany amount to 55 millions, against Great Britain to 20 millions, against the Benelux Union to 9 millions and against France to 5 1/2 millions. In return, the credits granted by Austria amount 2 1/2 million dollars, thereby reducing the indirect aid granted her to 83 millions. This places Austria fourth in the list of countries receiving indirect aid (through drawing credits), after France (236 millions), the Netherlands (118 millions) and Greece (106 millions).

On September 1st, Herbert Prack, heretofore Director of the Austrian National Bank, took office as Austria's new representative in the Organization of European Economic Cooperation (OEEC).

219 MILLION SCHILLINGS ALREADY SUBSCRIBED TO RECONSTRUCTION LOAN. By the end of August, 219 million schillings had already been subscribed to the 1949 Reconstruction Loan recently floated by the Austrian Government. Of this total, 127.6 millions were subscribed by financial

institutions and 91.4 millions by private subscribers. The Austrian Ministry of Finance has expressed its satisfaction at these figures. It is expected that subscriptions to the loan will be further increased in September and October, after completion of the harvest and beginning of the season in several branches of industry.

INCREASE IN AUSTRIAN IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION. In July 1949, the "Alpine Montan Gesellschaft" - Austria's largest iron and steel producer - broke all preceding iron and steel production records in its Donawitz and Judenburg (Styria) plants. The output of pig iron reached 32,772 tons (29% more than in July 1937 and 32% more than in July 1948); that of roasting ore, 52,583 tons and that of sinter ore, 13,088 tons. During the same month, 42,015 tons of natural steel and 30,374 tons of blooming mill products, the largest quantity since the end of the war, were also produced.

AUSTRIAN CIGARETTE PRODUCTION INCREASED TO 420 MILLION PER MONTH. During July 1949, according to the "Wiener Tageszeitung" Austria's tobacco monopoly (Oesterreichische Tabakregie) produced some 420 million cigarettes, an increase of about 100 million cigarettes over last July's output. The leading cheap brand, "Donau", which retails for 25 groschen per cigarette, sold 200 million cigarettes; next on the list were the brands "Austria C", with sales of 60 millions, "Johnny" with 50 millions, "Sport" with 30 millions, "Memphis" with 12 millions. The balance was made up of minor brands. The price reduction of all brands earlier in the year led to increased sales of domestic cigarettes and a further decrease in the black market sale of American brands.

AUSTRIA EXPORTING FRAME HOUSES TO TURKEY. The Austrian lumber industry recently completed a transaction for the delivery of 600 wooden frame houses to the Turkish Government for the province of Erzincan in Asia Minor. The 600 frame houses were made in Austria and then shipped to Turkey unassembled. On the site of their location, they were then assembled under the supervision of an Austrian technical man in only 14 weeks.

AUSTRIAN BEER EXPORTS. The Increased production of Austrian breweries, which was made possible by the now regular supply of raw materials, has led to a resumption of Austrian beer exports abroad. Before the war, Austrian beer had been exported only to Italy and the Near East (Turkey, Syria, etc.), but today the country's breweries are trying to place large quantities of their output in overseas markets. Negotiations with the African Gold Coast territories have been successfully concluded and the first shipments of Austrian beer have already been made to that area. Beer exports to other non-European countries are expected to increase during the coming months.

PRODUCTION PROGRESS IN AUSTRIAN LEATHER INDUSTRY. Since the end of the war, the Austrian leather industry has made remarkable and successful efforts in the reconstruction of its production facilities. In 1948, 35 firms and 256 tanneries produced about 1,200,000 square yards of uppers' leather, 8.14 million pounds of sole-leather, 1,056,000 lbs. of glossy leather, 1,018,600 lbs. of belt- and other special leathers as well as 308,568 square yards of flesher leather from 26.4 million pounds of domestic rawhides and 8.8 million pounds of stored leather. This output, however, is sufficient to meet only about half of present requirements. To produce enough leather for the balance of the country's needs, Austria must import about 26.4 million pounds of rawhides, as well as sufficient tanning products and equipment from abroad. Through direct or indirect dollar aid, the Marshall Plan places 100 million schillings at the disposal of the leather industry. To date, 525,590 rawhides worth 58.3 million schillings and about 5600 tons of tanning materials costing 11.3 million schillings have been supplied to the industry. The present supply situation is such that for every 2 million pounds of domestic hides, the industry receives 3 million pounds of hides from abroad. It can therefore be said that the current production program will meet about 75% of all domestic leather requirements.

VIENNA FALL FAIR REFLECTS INCREASED AUSTRIAN PRODUCTIVITY. The 50th International Vienna Fair, which opened on September 10th and closed on the 17th, reflected Austria's expanding domestic production and

foreign trade interest in the Austrian market. No less than 2300 domestic and foreign firms exhibited their products. On the opening day, more than 100,000 visitors viewed the heavily-laden stalls of native and foreign articles. The displays included products of Austria's heavy industry, of her steel, machinery and automobile plants, as well as agricultural implements, electrical goods, textiles, fashion wear, shoes, leather goods, glass- and porcelain wares, sports goods, musical instruments, furniture, cosmetics and other luxury goods. Austria's food industry and her wine-producing areas held a special exhibition of foods and delicacies. The individual pavilions of Egypt, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Italy, Yugoslavia, Morocco, Poland, Rumania, Turkey and the Scandinavian countries gave the 50th Vienna Fair the international atmosphere which had always characterized it in the past. In addition, more than 100 United States, English, French, Belgian and other foreign firms also had display stands. It is estimated that some 10,000 foreigners visited the fair.

RATIONING DISCONTINUED IN AUSTRIAN RESTAURANTS. The rationing of all food, with the exception of certain types of meat, in restaurants and hotels will be finally discontinued in all of Austria on September 12th, according to a statement by Austrian Minister of Food Supply Otto Sagmeister. After that date, Austrians as well as foreign tourists will no longer require food coupons in public eating places. This latest measure in the progressive, and by now almost completed lifting of food rations, is not only an important improvement of the domestic food situation, but also of the tourist trade. It was made possible by the extraordinarily favorable harvest and by increased commercial food imports (not with Marshall Plan funds). After sufficient reserves will have been built up, the restaurant rationing of all meats will also be discontinued. Retail sales of flour and bread in food stores are no longer rationed, and it is expected that sugar and rice will also be taken off the ration list shortly. Milk, fats and some meats will continue to be rationed for the time being.

RECORD NUMBER OF FOREIGN TOURISTS VISIT AUSTRIA. The number of foreign tourists visiting Austria during the first half of this year's summer season (months of June and July) has already exceeded by 400% the figures for the entire summer season in 1948. From May to October 1948, foreign tourists availed themselves of 78,541 daily accommodations, whereas in June and July of this year, the number of such daily reservations reached 260,980. Moreover, the month of August was an even greater tourist month and it is estimated that the number of daily accommodations for the entire summer season will easily exceed 600,000. In June and July, Swiss tourists made up the largest contingent of foreign visitors (with 88,242 daily accommodations); they were followed by the Belgians (with 58,169 accommodations), the English (with 56,204 accommodations) and the Americans (with 16,395 accommodations). Swedish and Italian tourists reserved more than 20,000 daily accommodations, with the French accounting for only 4,345 daily reservations.

AUSTRIAN TOURIST EXPERTS VISITING THE UNITED STATES. On September 7th Dr. Eugen Lanske, Head of the Industrial Department of the Federal Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction, and Dr. Harald Langer-Hansel, Chief of the Division for Tourism in the same ministry, arrived in the United States on a visit of several weeks duration, during which they will study the possibilities of intensifying American travel to Austria and discuss the matter with American and Austrian officials in New York, Washington, Chicago and San Francisco.

RECONSTRUCTION IN THE INNER CITY OF VIENNA PROCEEDING AT BRISK PACE. Reconstruction work in the center of Vienna is proceeding at a brisk pace, with 950 new buildings going up and 3500 others being repaired and renovated. Much of this building activity is taking place in the first district - the heart of the city - where several modern structures are being erected. The most important of these is the reconstruction of the "Heinrichshof" group of buildings facing the Vienna Opera. This cluster of buildings covers a whole block and will be seven stories high. The building costs have been estimated at 55 million schillings. On the Kaerntnerstrasse-Vienna's Fifth Avenue - a number of high modern office and business buildings are likewise in the process of construction. The Kaerntnerstrasse will also be the site of a new hotel which is expected to help alleviate the shortage

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of tourist accommodations. Other new modern buildings are in construction or preparation near the Schottenring, at the Hohe Markt and especially in the badly damaged Kai district.

CONSTRUCTION ON POWERFUL AUSTRIAN TRANSMITTER TO BEGIN THIS YEAR.

Construction on a powerful transmitter on the Bisamberg, near Vienna, is scheduled to begin this year. The new transmitter will be erected on the same spot where Vienna's former transmitting station was located before the war; the latter was completely destroyed by retreating German troops in 1945. The new transmitter will make perfect reception possible for radio sets in Vienna, Lower Austria and the Burgenland. But in order to also ensure good reception in the mountainous areas of Western Austria and especially in isolated Alpine valleys, 40 new 100-Watt transmitters will be ordered when construction work is started on the large transmitter. These smaller relay transmitters will be connected to the Austrian radio network.

Moreover, Austria's short wave network will be strengthened by the erection of several 50-Kilowatt transmitters. The country's radio programs will also be made available to overseas listeners (including those in the United States) by means of directional beam antennas. Experimental transmissions at very high frequencies are now being conducted in the city area of Vienna in order to ascertain the best transmission bands for the establishment of an Austrian television network.

CONSTRUCTION OF GROSSGLOCKNER CABLE RAILWAY STARTED. Early in September, construction work began on the longest cable railway in Austria. The new line is intended to make the Grossglockner (Austria's highest mountain, 12,461 feet) accessible to the broad public. The cable railway will be 6 1/2 kilometers long (somewhat over 4 miles) and will connect the town of Heiligenblut in Carinthia with the 9,902-feet "Margaritze" in the vicinity of the Grossglockner's highest peak.

AUSTRIA TO RESTOCK ITS WILD GAME. Before the war Austria had a rich preserve of wild life, thanks to sensible and moderate game laws. Although an average of 14,000 stags, 76,000 deer, 7,000 chamois, 1,600 wild boars, 550,000 hares, 180,000 pheasants, 300,000 partridges and 11,000 wild ducks were killed every year, the game reserves of the country always remained constant. But the war and the post-war periods played havoc with this fine preserve. Foreign troops stationed in the country indiscriminately killed many of the animals. They were joined by the hungry population which even resorted to battues. Much of the preserve was therefore slaughtered. Recently, however, both government officials and private individuals are making efforts to restore Austrian wild life to its pre-war level. Only the chamois - that sturdy Alpine goat - was to survive during these years, thanks to its natural habitat high up in the mountains where it was less exposed to man's penchant for hunting and need for food. Chamois hunting has therefore remained unaffected. It is expected that this year a total of 35,000 deer, 10,000 stags, 100,000 hares, 400 wild boars, 40,000 pheasants, 25,000 partridges and 7,500 wild ducks will be killed. Before the war, venison and other game meat amounted to some 9 million pounds per year, but this year the figure is expected not to exceed 4 million pounds. Present game laws are very strict, especially in those areas which were most depleted during the war, and in these only a very small amount of game may be shot in order that the wild life preserve may replenish itself as quickly as possible.

141,000 PUPILS IN VIENNA'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS. With the start of the 1949/1950 school year, 141,000 children will attend Vienna's primary schools. About 700 school buildings, with 3862 classrooms, have been set aside for the city's elementary education needs. This year there will be 72,000 more pupils and almost 2,000 more classrooms than in 1945. The comparatively low figures for that year were due to the fact that in May 1945, after fighting in Vienna had come to an end, a large number of school buildings had been either destroyed by bombing and fire, or used for other than educational purposes, and to the fact that more than half of the school children had fled the city.

LOW INCIDENCE OF INFANTILE PARALYSIS IN AUSTRIA. Up to the end of August of this year, only 331 cases of infantile paralysis were recorded in Austria, a new low in the occurrence of the disease. In the summer of 1947, the number of cases reached 3,508, which was a high

for Austria. During that season, the province of Styria was particularly hard hit. The year 1948 showed a marked decline in poliomyelitis, with 1,064 cases recorded. Of the 331 cases this year, 42 were fatal. Most of the cases occurred in Upper Austria (58), with those in Vienna numbering only 20. This year's occurrence of infantile paralysis in Austria has not, therefore, reached epidemic proportions and no concentration of cases in any one locality was noted.

20% OF VIENNA DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO CANCER. Dr. Leopold Schoenbauer, head of the Vienna University Clinic for Surgery and director of the General Hospital, recently declared that approximately one fifth of all deaths in Vienna are caused by cancer. The mortality rate of deaths due to cancer has been steadily increasing. In 1919, of a total of 38,278 deaths in Vienna, 2,383 (or 6.2%) were caused by cancer. In 1929, the overall mortality rate dropped to 25,019 deaths, but the number of fatal cancer cases increased to 3,337, or 13.3%. In 1939, there were 31,135 deaths, 4,392 (or 14.1%) of which were the result of cancer. And finally in 1948, 4,495 of the 23,088 deaths recorded, or 19.5%, were due to cancer. In that year, 30% of all male deaths due to cancer were caused by cancer of the respiratory organs; 12% of all female deaths due to cancer were caused by cancer of the pectoral glands.

The municipality of Vienna, keenly aware of the need for an intensive anti-cancer campaign, now plans to join with workmen's sickness compensation organizations and the city's leading hospitals to set up cancer examination facilities and medical advice centers in all of Vienna's districts, in order to conduct free mass examinations of the population. Inasmuch as cancer, if discovered early enough, is very often curable, it is hoped that these measures will contribute much toward a reduction of the cancer mortality rate in Vienna, especially since the latter is mainly due to late discovery and neglect of the disease. This campaign is expected to start very soon and will be under the overall direction of Professor Leopold Schoenbauer.

AUSTRIAN ART TREASURES TO ARRIVE HERE SOON AFTER SUCCESSFUL LONDON SHOWING. The great collection of "Art Treasures from Austria", which more than 250,000 art lovers have admired at the Tate Gallery in London between May 12th and September 3d, is now being prepared for shipment to the United States. The London exhibition was to have closed early in August, but had to be extended because of its widespread popularity. The paintings and other objects of art are now being crated and will be transported to this country on board a U.S. warship. Here, the collection will be exhibited to the public at the National Gallery of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Art Institute in Chicago and the Young Memorial Museum in San Francisco. The Austrian art treasures will be on display at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art from February 24, 1950 to May 20th. In Washington, the collection will be open to the public from October 1949 to February 1950. The exact dates of the exhibition in Chicago and San Francisco will be made public at a later date.

The famous collection includes some 130 paintings, 39 sculptures, 16 goldsmith's and silversmith's works, 19 Greek and Roman antiques, 31 vessels of rock crystal, a large number of arms and armor, as well as medieval jewelry and miniatures. Among the paintings there are 5 works by Jan Breughel, 3 by Correggio, one by Duerer, 9 by Van Dyck, one by Franz Hals, two each by Palma Vecchio and Rembrandt, 9 by Rubens, 6 by Tintoretto, 12 by Titian, 6 by Velasquez, one by Vermeer and 6 by Veronese. In addition, many other Italian, Spanish, Flemish, German and French masterpieces are represented. The works of sculpture include creations by Bartolomeo di Giovanni, Cattaneo, Gerhard, Giovanni da Bologna, Leoni, Richio, Roccotagliata, Van der Schardt and Vries.

Most of the masterpieces in the collection have been loaned by the Vienna History of Art Museum and other state galleries; some are also on loan from Church and private collections in Austria. A great number of these works of art had originally been acquired throughout the centuries by members of the Habsburg family for the Imperial collections in Vienna. Flemish, Spanish, Italian and German masters are so richly represented in Viennese collections because, at one time or another, members of the Austrian Imperial family had ruled in these countries.

VIENNA CHOIR BOYS TOUR UNITED STATES AND CANADA. A group of 22 members of the famous Vienna Choir Boys (Wiener Saengerknaben), conducted by Mr. Harold Hedding, will arrive on October 4th for a 20 weeks' tour of the United States and Canada starting October 7th in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The Vienna Choir Boys will be heard in New York shortly after Christmas. An exact schedule of the tour will be published in the next issue of AUSTRIAN INFORMATION.

Another group of the Vienna Choir Boys under the leadership of Mgr. Josef Schnitt and under the musical direction of Mr. Kurt Kettner has been touring the Latin-American countries since June 1st. In the course of this tour, the first in 13 years, 130 concerts will be given in all Latin-American countries with the exception of Paraguay and Bolivia. Wherever they appeared so far, in Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Santiago de Chile, Lima, Bogota and Caracas, the Vienna Choir Boys met with the most enthusiastic reception on the part of the public as well as the critics.

AMERICAN WATER COLOR PAINTINGS TO BE EXHIBITED IN VIENNA. This fall, the world-famous Vienna gallery "Albertina" will place on exhibition a number of leading American water color paintings. The exhibition will range from the naturalists of the last century to the best modern water colors and will present a 75-year survey of the development of American water color painting. Water colors by Homer, Eakins, Hopper, Burchfield, Demuth, Marsh, Graves, Marin and Feininger have already been selected from 20 different museums and many private collections, and will soon leave for Europe.

PRESIDENT RENNER OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO MRS. RICHARD STRAUSS. President Dr. Karl Renner of Austria sent a telegram of condolence to the widow of the world-renowned composer Richard Strauss, who died in Garmisch Partenkirchen on September 8th and whose life and work had been so closely linked with Vienna and Austria.

Dr. Renner stressed the profound esteem in which the great composer, who devoted many years of his life to the Vienna Opera and the Vienna Philharmonic, was held in Austria. He also mentioned the meritorious services Richard Strauss had rendered in connection with the Salzburg Festivals and the artistic development of Austria, adding that his work would continue to live on all over the world, but especially in Austria. Other warm expressions of sympathy were sent to the composer's widow by Chancellor Dr. Leopold Figl, Minister of Education Dr. Felix Hudes and the Vienna Philharmonic.

AUSTRIAN WRITER RUDOLF JEREMIAS KREUTZ DIES. The well-known Austrian writer Rudolf Jeremias Kreutz died in Vienna on September 6th at the age of 74. He had been a close friend of the great Austrian poet Ferdinand von Saar, whose work had exercised such a marked influence on his own. Rudolf Kreutz wrote a number of novels, the best-known of which was the strongly pacifist book "Die Grosse Phrase" (Big Words). Two of his other works were "Die einsame Flamme" (The Lonely Flame) and the recently published "Arabesken des Lebens" (Life's Arabesques).

AUSTRIAN PARTICIPATION IN VENICE P.E.N. CONGRESS. The Austrian delegation to the 21st Congress of the International Association of Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists and Novelists (P.E.N.), which was held in Venice from September 10th to the 17th, was composed of the writers Franz Theodor Csokor, Ferdinand Koegl, Paula Preradovic, L.W. Rocho-wanski and Alexander Sacher-Masoch. The Austrian delegation submitted several proposals, including an appeal to the Association to back repeal of the censorship regulations now in force between Austria and Germany with regard to literary works and the exchange of books, and a motion for the establishment of an international organization to handle the translation and distribution of short literary works. Franz Theodor Csokor, the President of Austria's P.E.N. club, presented a report to the Congress on the subject of "Literary Criticism in Occupied Territory".

AUSTRIAN SKI TEAM TRAINING FOR 1950 F.I.S. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS. Austria's top-flight skiers are now beginning their intensive training for the 1950 F.I.S. world championships which are scheduled to be held in Aspen, Colorado. The preliminary training now taking place will end with the selection of 40 skiers, both men and women, from which the final team will be chosen. Some of the Austrian team members for the F.I.S. world meet have already been selected. These are Josl

Gstrein, Egon Schoepf, Trude Beiser, Erika Mahringer and Resi Hammerer. Starting early in October, all of the ranking skiers will repair to the federal skiing school at Schielleiten where they will receive further special training. The final composition of the Austrian team will be decided upon only after the important Arlberg meet in January and February.

VIENNESE SPORTS CLUB "RAPID" CELEBRATES 50th BIRTHDAY. The well-known Viennese soccer club "Rapid" will celebrate its 50th anniversary at the beginning of October in Vienna. Although "Rapid" is not the oldest soccer team in Vienna (the "Vienna" team, for example, is an older club), it has come to be one of the best representatives of Austria's national sport. "Rapid" won the national soccer championship 16 times and the Vienna Cup 4 times. In 1930, it also brought back to Vienna the Mitropa Cup. This summer the team made a successful guest tour of several South-American countries, returning in time for the national championship.

24,000 AUSTRIANS TO GO TO ROME DURING HOLY YEAR PILGRIMAGE. By September 12th, 24,000 Austrians had already registered for the Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome, according to an Austrian Press Agency dispatch.

NEW AUSTRIAN COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS. The Austrian Postal Administration has recently issued a number of new commemorative stamps, both singles and sets. These include a special series of four values for the benefit of the Repatriates' and Prisoner of War Welfare Fund (40 groschen, 60 groschen, 1 schilling and 1,60 schilling, with surtaxes of 10, 15, 25 and 40 groschen respectively) which depict the evolution of the Austrian national coat of arms from the year 1230 to the present emblem of the Republic. Another new issue commemorates the 125th anniversary of Anton Bruckner's birth. It consists of but one 40 groschen stamp with a picture of the great Austrian composer. The 1000th anniversary of the birth of Bishop St. Gebhardt, the patron saint of Vorarlberg, was also commemorated philatelically by the issuance of a 30 groschen stamp presenting the saint in his stately episcopal robes.

The Information Department of the Austrian Consulate General in New York announces the publication of
"AUSTRIA"

A SUMMARY OF FACTS AND FIGURES

This illustrated handbook will contain useful information on the following subjects:

GEOGRAPHY (Areas; Boundaries; Topography, Climate; Population; The Federal States).

HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT (Brief Historical Outline; Political Development since 1945; Form of Government).

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS (Education; Science and Technical Achievements; Music; Literature and Theater; Architecture; Painting and Sculpture).

ECONOMY (Agriculture; Forestry; Hydroelectric Power; Mining; Manufacturing; Foreign Trade; European Recovery Program in Austria; Finance; Transportation; Social Legislation).

SOME BASIC FIGURES.

The 80 pages of this publication will present an overall picture of Austria as it is and as it was. This booklet may be obtained, free of charge, by writing to: Austrian Consulate General, Information Department, 509 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y.

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